STATE BAHA'I COUNCIL OF WEST BENGAL

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. V
VENUE: STATE BAHA'I CENTER, KOLKATA
DATE: 17th MARCH 2007

Members Present
Mr. Asish Mukherjee
Mr. Bablu Ghosh
Mr. Dilip Sarawagi
Mrs. Komal Ghosh
Miss. Nazia Alam
Mr. Pradip Bhattacharya
Mrs. Salima Alam

Member Absent
Mr. Chinmoy Chakraborty (reason not known)
Mr. Kamran Hemmati (pre occupied in his school work)

Auxiliary Board Member Present
Mrs. Simin Hemmati
Mr. Rahul Ghosh

Meeting started with devotional chanting at 2.45 p.m.

EVALUATION ON CLUSTER GROWTH

The teaching and core-activities that had been going on in some clusters were thoroughly discussed with the help of updated Cluster-wise Growth Chart displayed in Council office. Some of its achievements (Cluster-wise) that had happened in last 27 days are given below.

Diamond Harbor Cluster

In continuation another informal Consultative Meeting had been kept on 25th February 2007 at Dr. Muhajir Memorial Institute Nursery & K. G. School, Chandnagor, South 24 Parganas in Diamond Harbour Cluster, where three members of the Council and Auxiliary Board Member Mr. Rahul Ghosh were present. Twenty-nine friends participated from Patra and nearby communities. The friends who had participated in either of the consultative meetings not only learned many things from one another talks and experiences but also witnessed the cohesiveness of the cluster and the enthusiasm among the believers, and beyond that they had discovered that they had the capabilities of managing the affairs of the Faith in their cluster. In the end all the participants decided that they would meet again on 11th March 2007 at the same venue.
Again, on 11th March meeting three members of the Council shared their experiences what they had learned in previous meetings. It seemed that entire proceedings of the said consultative meetings and discourses had not only been inspiring but also it had the spirit of motivating some friends to undertake some activities. On that day twenty-four friends participated from Patra and nearby areas. The Council had expressed their thankful gratitude to the Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Patra for organizing such meetings, which were very productive and effective.

Some of the participants decided to start a Study Circle from 17th March 2007 with 7/8 believers/seekers and the others intended to do it from the 2nd week of April 2007.

It was also planned to organize similar kind of gatherings in other communities of Diamond Harbor Cluster. Mr. Bablu Ghosh, one of the members of the Council, pledged to pay regular visit to those communities to assist them in organizing core-activities.

Kamarhaty Cluster
On 23rd January 2007 there was a gathering of 21 believers/seekers at Kamarhaty Baha'i Bhaban to discuss about four core-activities. Three members of the Council and Auxiliary Board Member Mr. Rahul Ghosh also participated in that meeting. In the end the believers of the Kamarhaty cluster decided that they would start an Intensive Program on Study Circle on every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Kamarhaty Baha'i Bhaban, to achieve the remaining goal of developing a certain number of resource persons in the year 2006-2007. As a result till date seven participants completed Ruhi Book-2, five participants completed Ruhi Book-3 and nine participants completed Ruhi Book-4. Some courses in different sequence were still going on and it was expected to be finished within Ridvan 2007. Between the courses the act of services were also being held.

Kharagpur Cluster
Cluster Growth Committee of Kharagpur and Cluster Coordinator are trying to achieve the goal for the year 2006-2007. In last month eight participants completed Ruhi Book-1 and Ruhi Book-7 respectively. Also five friends completed Ruhi Book-3. It was encouraging to know that Baha'i Book Stall-cum-information Booths were installed in the village fair of Santrapur, Junbalda and Dakshindiha. Each one lasted for 1 to 2 weeks. Around 550 peoples received Healing Message of Baha'u'llah from the volunteers of Baha'i Book Stalls. Many of them showed keen interest to participate in core-activities.

Bolpur Cluster
Believers of this Cluster and Cluster Coordinator are trying to achieve their goals. The report shows that in the last month thirty-five friends completed Ruhi Book-1, six friends completed Ruhi Book-2 and seven friends completed Ruhi Book-4.

Kolkata Cluster
One of the council members Mr. Bablu Ghosh informed that some activities had been going on at Dongaria Raipur area where Mr. Ghosh had been residing. Apart from that another study circle had been going on in Kolkata.

Purulia Cluster
After a consultative meeting held in Purulia Town a study circle had been started with five new friends.

Uluberia Cluster
On 12th March 2007 two members of the Council visited one of the area of that cluster, named Bauria, where some Baha'is from minority background lived. Though the number of believers was small in that cluster however, two of them had already completed Ruhi Book-7. The friends over there decided to start Study Circle from the next week. A children class had been taking place on regularity basis.

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Raghunathpur Cluster
This Cluster is growing fast. As per the last report, four believers completed Ruhi Book-1 and five Baha'i Children Classes and one Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program are going on in a very systematic manner.

Chandannagor Cluster
Believers of this Cluster meet every 2 months to discuss about the progress of their cluster and to assume more responsibilities. The uniqueness of their previous gatherings had been that a good number of seekers took active part in consultation. At present three devotional meetings, two study circles on Ruhi Book-1 and one study circle on Ruhi Book-2 are going on.

Salt Lake Cluster
A believer from Kolkata cluster shifted temporarily to Salt Lake Cluster and over there he started a devotional meeting and a study circle with few seekers.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY
Treasurer submitted financial report for the month of February 2007 and he informed that letters were being dispatched to the selected Baha'i friends making a general appeal for contribution towards the National Fund (State Branch).

CLUSTER GROWTH COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2007(April)-2008(March).

For Kharagpur : Auxiliary Board Member Mrs. Simin Hemmati gave her suggestions in the meeting regarding Cluster Growth Committee of Kharagpur. After consultation with her the

Council decided to appoint the following friends as the members of the Cluster Growth Committee of Kharagpur for the year 2007-2008:-

a) Mr. Monisankar Maity (Santrapur) - Facilitator
b) Mr. Pintulal Maity (Santrapur)
c) Mr. Chitta Mahapatra (Santrapur)
d) Mr. Soumitra Raj (Dakhindiha)
e) Mr. Manik Patra (Junbalda)

For Puncha : Auxiliary Board Member Mr. Subash Sarkar gave his suggestions over the telephone regarding the Cluster Growth Committee of Puncha. After deliberation on his suggestions Council decided to appoint the following friends as the members of the Cluster Growth Committee of Puncha for the year 2007-2008:-

a) Mr. Shyamal Mahato (Pakbirra) - Facilitator
b) Mr. Chandra Sekhar Mahato (Puncha)
c) Mr. Chinmoy Chakraborty (Puncha)
d) Mrs. Bulbul Sarkar (Pandui)
e) Mr. Mrinal Sarkar (Pandui)

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For Manbazar: Auxiliary Board Member Mr. Abani Kanta Mahato gave his suggestions in writing and after consultation the Council decided to appoint the following friends as the members of the Cluster Growth Committee of Manbazar for the year 2007-2008:-

a) Mr. Prabir Mahato (Sindurpur) - Facilitator
b) Mr. Dilip Kr. Mahato (Karmatyar)
c) Mr. Mutuk Mahato (Jagda)
d) Mr. Birinchipada Mahato (Kumardih)
e) Mr. Dilip Kr. Mahato (Sijadi)

For Bolpur: Auxiliary Board Member Mr. Rahul Ghosh gave his suggestions in the meeting regarding Cluster Growth Committee of Bolpur and after consultation with him the Council decided to appoint the following friends as the members of the Cluster Growth Committee of Bolpur for the year 2007-2008:-

a) Mr. Badre Alam - Convenor
b) Mr. Sukdev Das
c) Mr. Bablu Bhattacharya
d) Mr. Sumanta Kower

e) Mr. Sambhunath Jyoti

And it was decided that convenor would be requested to convene their first meeting as early as possible. It was also resolved that regarding the appointment of facilitator would be decided in due course of time as and when it would be required.

For Kharta: Auxiliary Board Member Mr. Salil Bose gave his suggestions through e-mail. The Council deliberated upon his every suggestion.

In view of the last three years achievements and progress in Khatra Cluster the Council felt that it was not a propitious time to have new scheme of coordination in Khatra Cluster. Therefore, the Council decided not to appoint Cluster Growth Committee and to have any Cluster Coordinators at this very stage of development of Khatra Cluster. However, the Council also felt and greatly hoped that with the help and guidance of Auxiliary Board Member, Mr. Salil Bose, not only Khatra Cluster but also other clusters of Bankura district would come up in a manner that sooner or later each one of them would be able to launch Intensive Growth Program within the current Five Year Plan.

In this regard the council also decided that meanwhile, the State Coordinator and the Institute Board would be requested to take befitting steps in collaboration with Auxiliary Board Member, Mr. Salil Bose, to develop a good number of resource persons in Bankura District. Beside that, the Council would also extend their help and support to develop all the Clusters of Bankura District within this current Five Year Plan.

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RIDVAN ELECTION FOR THE YEAR 2007-2008

After consultation with the Auxiliary Board members present in the meeting, it was decided to send circular letter regarding Ridvan election to all existing Local Spiritual Assemblies and also to the former secretaries of the selected lapsed Local Spiritual Assemblies. And, at the same time a list of those selected lapsed Local Spiritual Assemblies would be sent to the Auxiliary Board members to see whether any possibilities of re-electing any Local Spiritual Assemblies were potentially exist or not and at the same time to find out what difficulties the willing communities had been facing in re-electing/electing their respective Local Spiritual Assemblies. If a community need help to know how to elect a Local Spiritual Assembly, the Board Members would be requested to help in this regard.

INCOMING CORRESPONDANCE

The Message from Universal House of Justice, dated 9 March 2007 received regarding pioneers was read and decided to give to it a due importance in the next Council meeting. Meanwhile, a general appeal has been made to the friends regarding pioneering through Nineteen Days News letter.

Information shared with the council members.

E-mailed letters received from Counselor Dr. Jabbar Eidelkhani, dated 8 March 2007 regarding his proposed visit to Kolkata in April 2007.

Information shared with the council members.

Circular letter received from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India, dated 22 February 2007, asking for materials such as copies of letters, news reports, photographs, personal reminiscences of late Mrs. Shirin Boman and Mr. R. N. Shah respectively for compiling a befitting biography of their many decades of services to the Cause of God in India and other foreign lands.

It was resolved to circulate the matter through Nineteen Days Feast Newsletter with an appeal to the Baha'is of West Bengal for sending materials such as copies of letters, news reports, photographs, personal reminiscences to the State Office by 20th April 2007.

Acknowledgement letter received from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India, dated 19th February 2007 for sharing a copy of the minutes of Council's 3rd meeting held on 27 January 2007.

Information shared with the council members.

A letter received from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India dated 6 March 2007. The letter said that the National Spiritual Assembly had approved the names of delegates who had been elected from West Bengal to participate in the National Convention-2007.

Information shared with the council members.

Letter received from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India dated 9 March 2007 alongwith three declaration cards of friends who recently declared their belief in Baha'u'llah during the Intensive Program of Growth (7th cycle) of the Delhi community.

The Council office had already communicated with the newly declared friends by sending encouraging and loving letters to them.

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Acknowledgement letter received from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India, dated 12 March 2007 regarding minutes of our 4th meeting held on 17 February 2007.

Replied accordingly.

Circular letter received from Regional Board of Trustees of Huququ'llah for the Indian Sub-continent, dated 17 February 2007 regarding one-day Regional Conference on Huququ'llah to be held at Lucknow on Sunday, 25th March 2007 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Information shared with Council members, Board members. The matter had already been published in Nineteen Days Feast Newsletter with a request to the Baha'i friends to take initiative to attend this program.

Circular letter received from Nightingale Press, dated 18 February 2007 regarding Baha'i Diary for the year 2007-2008.
Information shared with the council members. Matter had already been published in Nineteen Days Feast Newsletters.

A letter received from the department of statistics of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India dated 6 March 2007 regarding some statistics in preparing the Annual Report for the National Spiritual Assembly.
Replied accordingly.

A circular letter received from pioneer desk of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India dated 3rd March 2007 regarding some information about Short/Long Term/International pioneers.
Replied accordingly.

Approval of previous minutes
The previous minutes (session no. IV) was read and approved.

Meeting ended at 5.00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mr. Asish Mukherjee
Chairman

Mr. Pradip Bhattacharya
Secretary

Copy submitted to:
1. The Universal House of Justice
2. The Continental Board of Counselors for India
3. The National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India
4. The Auxiliary Board Members serving in West Bengal
5. The Individual members of the National Spiritual Assembly of India
6. The Individual members of State Baha'i Council of West Bengal.